

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00
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O R 061800Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6412
MARAD WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0265

MARAD FOR BOURDON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, EEWT, EWWT, UR, US
SUBJECT: MARINE CARGO INSURANCE NOGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) MOSCOW 213, (B) SKOUG/GAGE TELCON JAN 6.

1. BRITISH COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR CALLED LATE TODAY TO REPORT "ONE LITTLE SNAG IN THE ROSY PICTURE" HE HAD GIVEN EARLIER (REFTEL). UK HAS NOT YET ISSUED VISA FOR DELEGATION MEMBER ALBERT V. MEL'NIKOV, DEPUTY CHIEF OF AMERICAN COUNTRIES SECTION OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE. SOVIETS ORIGINALLY DID NOT HAVE MEL'NIKOV ON LIST THEY GAVE BRITISH BUT SUBSTITUTED HIM FOR HIS CHIEF, NIKOLAY ZINOV'YEV. WE REMINDED BRITISH WE HAD DISCUSSED THIS SUBSTITUTION WITH THEM SOME TIME AGO AND THAT IT HAD APPEARED RESOLVED. NEVERTHELESS, VISA FOR MEL'NIKOV NOT YET ISSUED, AND UNLESS IT CAN BE DONE ON JANUARY 7, HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO LEAVE WITH DELEGATION ON JANUARY 8 RPT JANUARY 8, NEW DEPARTURE DATE.

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2. BRITISH EMBASSY MOSCOW ADVISES THAT IT IS NOT ABLE TO PROMISE ANY FURTHER ASSISTANCE IN THIS CASE AND IS DOUBTFUL IT WILL RECEIVE AUTHORIZATION TO GRANT MEL'NIKOV VISA TOMORROW. WE HAVE SPOKEN WITH MEL'NIKOV, WHO MENTIONED CONCERN OF DEPUTY MINISTER IVANOV ABOUT SITUATION. MEL'NIKOV DID NOT RPT NOT SAY THAT DELEGATION WOULD REFUSE TO TRAVEL WITHOUT

HIM, AND WE ARE NOT ABLE TO PREDICT WHAT IVANOV MAY DO IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. LENGTHY DISCUSSION WITH MEL'NIKOV ON EVENING OF JANUARY 6 DID NOT GIVE CLEAR SIGN ON THIS POINT. MEL'NIKOV SPOKE OF CONTINGENCY OF HIS NOT GOING BUT MENTIONED IVANOV'S "CONCERN".

3. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF GAGE COMMENTS (REF B) THAT UK GIVING MEL'NIKOV CASE ITS CONSIDERATION, WE ASSUME THAT IT IS HIS WIDELY SUSPECTED KGB AFFILIATION WHICH IS CAUSING PROBLEM. OBVIOUSLY IT IS UP TO UK TO DECIDE IF IT WANTS TO LET HIM IN AGAIN IN LIGHT OF THE EVIDENCE IT MAY POSSESS, BUT THIS SORT OF ISSUE PRESENTS SERIOUS IMPEDIMENT TO USING LONDON AS VENUE FOR THESE US-SOVIET TALKS IN FUTURE.

4. IF MEL'NIKOV DOES NOT RECEIVE VISA SATURDAY, IVANOV WILL BE FORCED TO DECIDE WHETHER TO GO OR NOT. WE WILL REPORT HIS REACTION BY NIACT IMMEDIATE AS SOON AS KNOWN.
MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

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